

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A reproducing apparatus comprising:  
reproducing means for reproducing image data  
from a recording medium;

5       determining means for detecting a reproduction  
stop date when reproduction of the image data is  
stopped in the past and determining a reproduction  
start position in the image data on a basis of the  
reproduction stop date; and

10       control means for controlling said reproducing  
means so as to start the reproduction of the image  
data from the reproduction start position determined  
by said determining means in response to an  
instruction of starting reproduction.

15

2. An apparatus according to claim 1, further  
comprising:

holding means for holding stop date information  
indicating the date when the reproduction of the  
20   image data is stopped,

wherein said determining means detects the  
reproduction stop date in the past on a basis of the  
stop date information held by said holding means.

25

3. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
said determining means sets a head position of  
the image data as the reproduction start position

when time period elapsing from the detected reproduction stop date to the instruction of starting the reproduction exceeds a predetermined time period.

5           4. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
said determining means sets a predetermined  
position pertaining to a reproduction stop position  
in the past in the image data as the reproduction  
start position when a time period elapsing from the  
10 detected reproduction stop date to the instruction of  
starting the reproduction is within a predetermined  
time period.

          5. An apparatus according to claim 4, further  
15 comprising:  
holding means for holding stop position  
information indicating the reproduction stop position  
in the past,

          wherein the determining means determines the  
20 predetermined position on a basis of the stop  
position information held by the holding means.

          6. An apparatus according to claim 5, wherein  
said determining means sets a position the  
25 reproduction stop position preceding by a  
predetermined time as the predetermined position.

7. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
said determining means detects a time elapsing  
from the date when the reproduction of the image data  
is stopped to a date of the instruction of starting  
5 the reproduction, on a basis of the detected  
reproduction stop date, and sets a position  
corresponding to the elapsed time as the reproduction  
start position.

10 8. An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein  
said determining means sets a position nearer to  
a head of the image data as the reproduction start  
position, as the elapsed time is longer.

15 9. An apparatus according to claim 8, wherein  
said detecting means includes a timer for  
clocking a present time, and detects the elapsed time  
period by means of an output of said timer.

20 10. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
said reproducing means further reproduces stop  
date information indicating the date when the  
reproduction of the image data is stopped, from said  
recording medium, and

25 said determining means detects the date when the  
reproduction of the image data is stopped, on a basis  
of the stop date information reproduced by said

reproducing means.

11. A reproducing apparatus comprising:  
reproducing means for reproducing image data  
5 from a recording medium;  
determining means for detecting a reproduction  
stop date when reproduction of the image data is  
stopped in the past and a reproduction stop position  
at a time of the reproduction stop and determining a  
10 reproduction start position in the image data on a  
basis of the reproduction stop date and the  
reproduction stop position; and  
control means for controlling said reproducing  
means so as to start reproducing of the image data  
15 from the reproduction start position determined by  
said determining means in response to an instruction  
of starting reproduction.
12. An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein  
20 said determining means detects a time elapsing  
from the date when the reproduction of the image data  
has been stopped to a date of the instruction of  
starting the reproduction, on a basis of the detected  
reproduction stop date, and sets as the reproduction  
25 start position a position preceding the reproduction  
stop position by a predetermined time period  
corresponding to the elapsed time.

13. An apparatus according to claim 12, wherein  
said determining means sets a position nearer to  
the reproduction stop position as the reproduction  
start position, as the elapsed period is shorter.

5

14. An apparatus according to claim 12, wherein  
said determining means sets a position preceding  
the reproduction stop position by a first  
predetermined time, as the reproduction start  
10 position when the elapsed period is within a first  
period, and sets a position preceding the  
reproduction stop position by a second predetermined  
time longer than the first predetermined time when  
the elapsed period exceeds the first period within a  
15 second period longer than the first period.

15. An apparatus according to claim 12, wherein  
said control means further controls said  
reproducing means so as to start reproduction of the  
20 image data from the reproduction stop position in  
response to an instruction of skipping to the  
reproduction stop position after said control means  
starts reproduction of the image data from the  
reproduction start position determined by said  
25 determining means.

16. An apparatus according to claim 11, further

comprising:

holding means for holding stop date information  
indicating the reproduction stop date when the  
reproduction of the image data is stopped and stop  
5 position information indicating the reproduction stop  
position in the past,

wherein said determining means determines the  
reproduction start position on a basis of the stop  
date information and the stop position information,  
10 both held by said holding means.

17. An apparatus according to claim 16, wherein  
said holding means stores stop date information  
indicating a date when the reproduction of the image  
15 data is stopped lastly, and stop position information  
indicating a position where the reproduction of the  
image data is stopped lastly.

18. An apparatus according to claim 16, wherein  
20 said reproducing means reproduces the image data  
pertaining to a plurality of contents from said  
recording medium, and

said holding means holds the stop date  
information and the stop position information every  
25 plurality of contents.

19. A reproducing apparatus comprising:

reproducing means for reproducing image data  
from a recording medium;

reproduction instruction means for instructing a  
reproduction start of the image data;

5 stop position detecting means for detecting a  
stop position of a last reproduction stop of the  
image data;

reproduction position determining means for  
selecting any one of a first position corresponding  
10 to the stop position detected by said stop position  
detecting means, a second position corresponding to a  
head position of the image data, and a third position  
located between the first position and the second  
position as a reproduction start position according  
15 to a time period elapsing from the last reproduction  
stop of the image data to an instruction of the  
reproduction start by said reproduction instruction  
means; and

control means for controlling said reproducing  
20 means so as to reproduce the image data from the  
reproduction start position selected by said  
reproduction position determining means in response  
to the instruction of the reproduction start by said  
reproduction instruction means.

25

20. An apparatus according to claim 19, wherein  
said reproduction position determining means

calculates the third position on a basis of the reproduction stop position detected by said stop position detecting means.

5           21. A reproducing apparatus for reproducing image data from a recording medium in response to a reproduction start instruction, wherein

          wherein said apparatus detects a time period elapsing from a last stop of reproduction of the  
10   image data to the reproduction start instruction on a basis of stop date information indicating a date of a last stop of reproduction of the image data, and

          wherein said apparatus starts reproduction of the image data from a head of the image data when the  
15   elapsed time period exceeds a predetermined time period, and starts the reproduction of the image data from a position immediately before a position of the last stop of the reproduction of the image data when the elapsed time period is shorter than the  
20   predetermined time period.

          22. An apparatus according to claim 21, wherein  
          said apparatus reads the stop date information indicating the date of the last stop of the  
25   reproduction of the image data from a nonvolatile memory, and detects the elapsed time period on a basis of the stop date information.



23. An apparatus according to claim 21, wherein  
said apparatus reproduces the stop date  
information indicating the date of the last stop of  
the reproducing of the image data from the recording  
5 medium, and detects the elapsed time period on a  
basis of the stop date information.

24. A reproducing method comprising the steps  
of:  
10 reproducing image data from a recording medium;  
detecting a reproduction stop date when  
reproduction of the image data is stopped in the past  
and determining a reproduction start position in the  
image data on a basis of the reproduction stop date;  
15 and  
controlling said reproducing step so as to start  
the reproduction of the image data from the  
reproduction start position determined in said  
detecting step in response to an instruction of  
20 starting reproduction.

25. A reproducing method comprising the steps  
of:  
reproducing image data from a recording medium;  
25 detecting a reproduction stop date when  
reproduction of the image data is stopped in the past  
and a reproduction stop position at a time of the

reproduction stop and determining a reproduction start position in the image data on a basis of the reproduction stop date and the reproduction stop position; and

5           controlling said reproducing step so as to start reproducing of the image data from the reproduction start position determined in said detecting step in response to an instruction of starting reproduction.

10           26. A reproducing method comprising the steps of:

reproducing image data from a recording medium;  
instructing a reproduction start of the image data;

15           detecting a stop position of a last reproduction stop of the image data;

selecting any one of a first position corresponding to the stop position detected at said detecting step, a second position corresponding to a head position of the image data, and a third position located between the first position and the second position as a reproduction start position according to a time period elapsing from the last reproduction stop of the image data to an instruction of the reproduction start in said instructing step; and

25

controlling said reproducing step so as to reproduce the image data from the reproduction start

position selected in said selecting step in response to the instruction of the reproduction start in said instructing step.

5           27. A reproducing method for reproducing image data from a recording medium in response to a reproduction start instruction, comprising the steps of:

10           detecting time period elapsing from a last stop of reproduction of the image data to the reproduction start instruction on a basis of stop date information indicating a date of a last stop of reproduction of the image data, and

15           starting reproduction of the image data from a head of the image data when the elapsed time period exceeds a predetermined time period, and starting the reproduction of the image data from a position immediately before a position of the last stop of the reproduction of the image data when the elapsed time  
20           period is shorter than the predetermined time period.